

February 25, 2009
(c. 4,300,000)

Green Tech Invades NYC's Times Square

Well, maybe not *all* of Times Square, but at least one of the conference rooms at the New York Marriott Marquis, where a few dozen companies converged Wednesday to show off their latest green wares. Among the goodies: A solar-powered laptop charger, an all-in-one recycling sorter, and even a UV "sanitizer wand."

Solar Gorilla Laptop Charger

A solar charger for laptops that's practically as big as a laptop itself, the Solar Gorilla will charge just about any notebook PC, cell phone, or other portable gadget. Armed with a 20V power socket, a 5V USB port, and nine cell phone connectors, the Solar Gorilla (priced at \$280) should get the average laptop all charged up within about three to four hours, so long as the twin photovoltaic solar panels are getting a good dose of sunlight.



Mode Premium Recycling Center

About the size of a filing cabinet, this sleek recycling "center" boasts a trio of compartments for separating plastic, aluminum, and paper recyclables. The aluminum can section comes with its own, human-powered compactor—just step on the pedal to crush. Also interesting: The built-in digital display that reminds of your weekly recycling day and keeps tabs on how many cans, newspapers, and other miscellaneous junk you've recycled, thus "tracking your positive impact on the environment." Not bad—but at \$249-\$299 (depending on the finish), not all that cheap either.



UV-C Sanitizer Wand

Attention, germaphobes—here's a kootie-killing gadget with your name on it. The UV-C Sanitizer Wand (\$60) from the clean freaks at Germ Guardian promises to kill (and I quote) "99%" of germs on household and public surfaces (think toilets, showers, public phones—ewww!—computer keyboards, you name it) with a swift, deadly (to germs, at least) wave of "natural" UV light.



Fuji EnviroMax batteries

They look like your typical AA, AAA, C and D-size batteries, but Fuji's "eco-friendly" EnviroMax batteries come wrapped in 70-percent recycled packaging and are free of such toxic chemicals as cadmium, mercury, and PVC; indeed, Fuji claims that the batteries are safe for landfills (although I'm guessing that most state and/or local agencies would still prefer that you hand over any and all dead batteries—green or not—to a recycling center). Available now in "super alkaline" (\$3.99) and "digital alkaline" (\$5.99) versions. [Note: Whether disposable batteries like the EnviroMax series are truly "green" is, naturally, a matter of some debate.]

